

Today the passage from Zephaniah echoes language and images read in Baruch Sunday, both of which writings share such elements with Isaiah. And again the proph message accompanies part of Luke's account of John the Baptist. John is often imagi as a somewhat severe or at least as a sombre character, as the abstemious ascetic w dressed rough, slept rough, and ate rough-but that all comes from Matthew. juxtaposing related prophetic passages with Luke's account of John the Baptist, Lectionary casts another light upon John. The two earlier prophets have urged us dress joyously, and to shout for joy in celebrating with God, who is also said to shout joy and even to dance. Perhaps John is more sober than sombre, heralding anticipa joy that can be experienced in fullness only in the encounter with the hoped-for car In our own times and ministry, by contrast, since joy in Christ has already entered world we are to be its heralds by being joyful, as living witnesses of its truth. This fi echo in the second reading, though our translation's "I want you to be happy, alw happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness" is oddly wordy with compared with a direct translation, one that is very close to that found in an alre well-known musical setting: "Rejoice (ye) in the Lord always; again I shall say, Rejoice

Pope Francis reflects on this theme in his exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel.* He warns against those Christians whose lives "seem like Lent without Easter" (*EG* 6), and, certainly, glum people glumly proclaiming mercy and the joy of the Good News are by no means convincing, for they appear unconvinced by their own message: "Consequently, an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!" (*EG* 10). Indeed, the interpretation of John the Baptist in the musical *Godspell* accords with this, for his singing of "Prepare ye" is anything but a dirge. While the theme of joyful anticipation continues in the first and second readings, today's gospel passage (only Luke has this episode, though elements are related to parables in Matthew) reports John teaching a message of right living that is consistent with what is to be developed in other ways by Jesus. And the effect of John's mission on the people cultivates a feeling of expectancy among them. It seems they are infected, in the best sense, by John's enthusiasm. Thus although it is not mentioned in today's gospel pericope, joy, or anticipation of it, perfuses Luke's account.

Luke's fringe dwellers are there too; they are attracted to John, firstly in the tax collectors then in the soldiers. We do not normally think of such as these as being on the fringes, since they are among those who wield considerable strength as agents of the oppressors (if we ignore for the sake of argument the *Pax Romana*, the widespread political stability with the benefits of trade their empire brought), but they were themselves tools of ruling powers and thus were on the fringes of the bulk of the population. For them, too, the Good News has come. And indeed the structures and agents of the empire would also provide avenues for the rapid spread of the followers of Jesus bearing the Gospel in Luke's second great journey theme: from Jerusalem to all the world.

T/ext: Homily Help - Rev Dr Barry Craig - Third Sunday of Advent - Year C

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ned	Sun 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am,					
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In	Weekday Mass Times					
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s to for	Tues-Fri 9:15am					
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the	Masses for Special Occasions					
nds	1st Tues 7.30pm Novena Mass					
vays	Our Lady of Perpetual Help					
hen	1st Fri 7pm Novena Mass					
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	Exposition + Benediction					
arns	1st Fri after 9.15am Mass					
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Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R**.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. **R**.

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**.

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians *The Lord is near.*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke *What, then, must we do?*

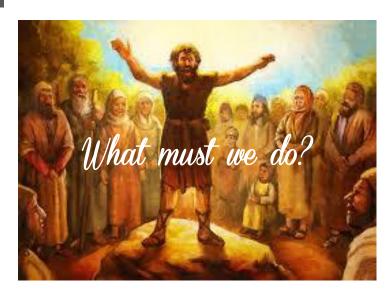
When all the people asked John. 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them. The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Owen Rogers, Bob Dole

Deceased:

Mr Hector Serpes, Yvonne Redden

Anniversary:

Father Atanasio Gonelli, Brother Peter Tullis, Vince Perrone, Sebastian & Emy Livolsi, James Youngman, Pauline Fernandes, Rachel Caberte,

Sick: Names published with permission.

Fr Kevin Walsh, Natividad Reyes, Pat Doyle, Maria Romeo, Kristy Arceo, Iyrika D'Cruz, Colleen McCunnie, Tony Muscat, Bev Lewis, Greg Marcellana, Elvis D'sa, Zenira D'Souza, Sophie De Leon, Hilary Regan, Gloria Bueno Elizabeth Candame, Raymond Lanzona, Geoffrey Robinson, Anshu Mala Nand, Christina Properzi, Elizabeth Newnes, Florentina Elisura, Deidre Thomson, Mavie Dela Cruz, Perla Magculang, Isagani Ocampo, Virginia Santos, Dragica Julich

Thanksgiving:

Myrna Barcelon, Christopher Pereira & Fly



Welcome to the community of the Catholic Parish of St John 23rd Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens where the love of Christ is shining in so many

Church Calendar

December

Mon 13 Saint Lucy (M) 8:30am - Mass Saint John of the Cross (M) Tues 14 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Wed 15 9:15am - Mass Thurs 16 6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass 6:00am - Mass of the Rooster Fri 17 9:15am - Mass 6:00am - Mass of the Rooster Sat 18 9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass 19 7:30am 9:00am 10:30 - Mass Sun 6:00pm - Mass

Mass booking via Eventbrite not

required due to the easing of rules by NSW Health.

First come first served will apply. Mask still required.

Weddings and Funerals, if not fully vaccinated, by NSW regulations only 10 people will be allowed.

COVID-19 NOTICES

Please check out the following sites for any and all updates:

https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pageslatestupdates.aspx

https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19

Check in and help keep everyone safe For ease on contact tracing, as per NSW

COVID regulation, a QR Code is displayed at both church doors for scanning purposes.



100

Doors to swing open as NSW continues to get the jab done

In response to the faster-than-expected rate of vaccination, the NSW Government will further ease rules for those who are <u>fully vaccinated</u> by bringing forward many of the roadmap changes scheduled for 1 December to Monday 8 November. These **freedoms will only be available for people who are <u>fully</u>**

vaccinated, including those who have medical exemptions and children under the age of 16. <u>COVID Safe check-ins and proof of vaccination will still be required.</u>

Those who are not fully vaccinated must still abide by pre-roadmap restrictions until the State reaches the 95 per cent double vaccination target, or 15 December, whichever happens first.

The current settings for masks, which apply to everyone, will remain in place until the State reaches the 95 per cent double vaccination target, or 15 December, whichever happens first.

Weddings

Weddings in NSW may have up to:

- 1 person per 2 square metres of space for indoor and outdoor areas.
- All people attending a wedding must be fully vaccinated (except for small wedding services).

Do not attend a wedding that exceeds the capacity limits.

People who are fully vaccinated do not have to be seated while consuming food and drink.

Dancing is permitted.

You can attend a wedding anywhere in NSW.

- If you are fully vaccinated you can attend a wedding, so long as the capacity limit is not exceeded. You must:
- carry vaccination evidence with you and produce it for inspection to a police officer or authorised officer if requested;
- check in with the Service NSW app or provide your contact details to the occupier
- follow the face mask rules.

Funerals and memorial services

Funerals and memorial services in NSW may have up to:

- 1 person per 2 square metres of space for indoor and outdoor areas.
- <u>All people attending the funeral service must be fully vaccinated</u>, (except for small funeral or memorial services).
- Do not attend a funeral or memorial service that exceeds the capacity limits.
- People who are fully vaccinated do not have to be seated while consuming food and drink.

You can attend a funeral or memorial service anywhere in NSW.

If you are fully vaccinated you can attend a funeral or memorial service, so long as the capacity limit is not exceeded. You must carry vaccination evidence with you and produce it for inspection to a police officer or authorised officer if requested; check in with the Service NSW app or provide your contact details to the occupier follow the face mask rules.

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE UPDATES ON COVID19 THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA ENCOURAGES YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR LIFE OF PRAYER AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH DESPITE CHURCH BUILDING CLOSURES.

For more updates and useful resources visit <u>https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#fag</u>

Pastoral/Minist Parish

FAITH FORMATION

\Rightarrow Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, grant that I may ever invoke your powerful name, the protection of the living and the salvation of the dying. Purest Mary, let your name henceforth be ever on my lips. Delay not, Blessed Lady, to rescue me whenever I call on you. In my temptations, in my needs, I will never cease to call on you, ever repeating your sacred name, Mary, Mary. What a consolation, what sweetness, what confidence fills my soul when I utter your sacred name or even only think of you! I thank

the Lord for having given you so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name. But I will not be content with merely uttering your name. Let my love for you prompt me ever to hail you Mother of Perpetual Help. Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for me and grant me the favour I confidently ask of you. (Then say three Hail Marys).

"A family that prays together, stays together - Fr Patrick Peyton" If you want the opportunity of having the statue of Our Lady visit your home, please contact Bart Sarlabus via email bart.sarlabus@gmail.com or Melva Paguinto emcipi85@yahoo.com.au

Novena prayers 7pm every Tuesday except every First Tuesday it's a Novena mass 7:30pm

1	ministry corner								
		Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights							
	Nov	2	9	16	23	30			
		Gan	Barnouti	Ring	Jacob	Melva			
	Dec	7	14	21	28				
		Jacob	Richards	Richards	Richards				
	Jan	4	11	18	25				
		Deang	Lozada	Javelosa	Cano				
	Feb	1	8	15	22				
		Tangunan	Sebastian	Ring	Jacob				
	Mar	1	8	15	22	29			
		Jayakody	Paguinto	Richards	Shalini	Jacob			
	Apr	5	12	19	26				
		Barnouti	Erasmo B	Ring	Shalini				

Families on the roster, if unable to pick up please don't hesitate to contact Bart or Melva.

"Mary joins us, she fights at our side. She supports Christians in the fight against the forces of evil. Especially through prayer, through the Rosary. Hear me out, the Rosary. ... Do you pray the Rosary each day?" Pope Francis

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Mahatma Gandhi We are in urgent need for volunteers to assist in the different pastoral ministries in our Parish.



\Rightarrow SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FACILITATORS

We require assistance at the children's baptismal rites during Sundays 12pm. For interested parties please contact the Parish Office on 8883 5981.

\Rightarrow GARDENERS AND CLEANERS

Garden Bees - our gardens look magnificent thanks to the work of our abled parishioners but more help is needed. The commitment would be whatever time you can spare - a few hours a fortnight to assist in the maintenance of the church's garden surrounds.

Cleaners - we have four teams of cleaners who clean the church on a monthly cycle and four teams who clean the votive candle stands every few months. Both groups needs more bodies to help out, urgently. The commitment would be a few hours each month. For more information contact maintenance@john23rd.org.au

\Rightarrow SRE Teachers

If you could spare an hour during weekdays to spread God's word teaching the scriptures to children, WE NEED YOU. We currently have 4 public primary schools and a high school in our parish where we hold scripture classes during school hours for 30 minutes during Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. For more information call Asoki 0430 020265 or Renuka 0414 795814.

Training and resources will be provided.

\Rightarrow WEEKDAY WARRIORS

The church pews are undergoing refurbishment. We are looking for volunteers to help carry some pews down to the basement where they are being repaired. If you can assist, please let Fr Jolly know or call the parish office.

\Rightarrow VINNIES VAN

The Vinnies Van provides food, friendship, compassion and dignity to those experiencing homelessness and social isolation in the Mount Druitt and Parramatta areas. To become a volunteer of Vinnies Van you must be 16 years of age and over available to attend induction training and upon commencement.

For more information on joining the SJ23rd Vinnies Van team, please contact Naomi Reynolds at naomi1.rey@gmail.com



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Members Bing Catabas Chris Drummond Margaret Harrison Nanette Gamboa

PARKING

Parking Reminder

Please make sure when you come to Mass, let us consider our neighbours. Do not block the neighbours' driveway.

Paying our debt together

FIRST COLLECTION - for the support of the priests and deacons of the Diocese.

SECOND COLLECTION – used to meet our parish running costs of the church and provide for ministry expenses; it is also needed to pay off our church mortgage.

Planned Giving Program as part of the second collection

A Planned giving Program is in place to help us with the planning/budgeting for the church expenses. To register, an SJ23rd form is available at the church foyer or the website.

The Parish Finance Committee encourages all parishioners to register for direct debit or credit card deductions instead of the envelope system.

We encourage everyone to contribute financially as you leave by using the *TapnGo* machines or online via BPoint. We have *TapnGo* at both the doors.

Parish Notices

SPONSOR A PEW

Dear Parishioners,

As you are aware, we had been planning and discussing for a while to change and replace our old, broken, damaged and messy pews of different colour, design and shape to make the church look better and sitting and kneeling more comfortable. After many little experiments of a carpenter and our construction students, this did not work out in the way we expected due to COVID and other reasons. We, then, invited a number of pew making companies to submit quotes. We received a number of quotes and finally, at the satisfaction of everyone in the committee, we decided to go with Grandchester Designs to make the new pews. (They are also making pews for our neighbouring parish Our Lady of the Rosary Kellyville).

We will have the pews finished by the end of March 2022. All pews will be coated with quality polyurethane 2 pack in a matt finish with kneelers covered with good quality vinyl and high density foam to make kneeling more comfortable and smooth.

The total cost of the project \$175,000. So far, the total amount received from sponsors is \$55,000. We still need to raise \$120,000.

On this note, we would like to request you to sponsor a pew. It can be in memory of a deceased love one or your family or personal gift to the parish community. Each pew in the size of 4.6 metres will cost \$2500 and pews at the back will be almost double the size to match with the shape of the church. A small memorial or "donated by" plaque will be placed upon request. You can get family and friends to pool together or if you cannot afford to sponsor one full pew, you can donate whatever amount you can to have comfortable pews and be part of the community that care its spiritual home.

Finance committee, Fr Zvonimir and Fr Jolly

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES MASS OF THE ROOSTER

Christmas season is upon us and it is that time of year, 16th December till 24th December at 6am novena mass. Mark your calendar.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

All masses will be held at St Marks Catholic College

24th December 2021 mass times

• 6pm - Children/family mass - the Hub

• 9pm - the Hub

12am (midnight) - the Hub

25th December 2021 mass times

* 8:00am - the Hub

10:00am - the Hub

RECONCILATION TIMES

15th to 18th December - After the morning Mass 21st December - 6:00 to 8:00pm

MASS OF THE ROOSTER



Join us for a nine day novena mass celebration in preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. These masses will commence on the 16th of December, 6:00am mass and finish in the morning of the 24th of December.

We hope you can join us and bring a plate to share for a breakfast social.

Advent Retreat 2021

Join us for a time of reflection and prepare our hearts for the season of joy this Christmas. Learn from the readings for the 4th Sunday of Advent and explore how we can allow God's word to change our lives with a richer experience at Mass the following day.

Enlightened, Strengthened, Nourished Date: 18th December 2021, Saturday Time: 10am to 12noon (after the 9am Saturday mass).

Register you interest on the sign-up sheet at the church foyer, or email Vitt Lim - *vivit.donna@gmail.com*



For more events please go to parracatholic.org/events or https://catholicoutlook.org/

Diocesan News

Bishops Christmas Appeal

Dear Parishioners

Our Parish is proud to support Parramatta Catholic Foundation's Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Funds raised through Parramatta Catholic Foundation will enable Catholic Care's Houses to Homes to support vulnerable young pregnant women who are facing hardship, abuse and homelessness – so that they and their children can face the future with hope, safety and security.

We invite you in this Year of the Family, to show your Christian kindness to vulnerable women and their children in need, by supporting the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Your gift to Parramatta Catholic Foundation will help pregnant and at-risk young mothers bring their babies into the world in a safe, nurturing and emotionally secure environment, setting them up for the very best start to their family life.

Please give with a generous heart via the Parramatta Catholic Foundation giving envelopes or online.

Thank you.



Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Homeless young mothers desperately need our help this Christmas

For more than 30 years, Catholic Care's Houses to Homes has been assisting disadvantaged pregnant girls and young mothers aged 16 to 25, who are experiencing abuse, hardship and homelessness.

The need for shelter and support has increased with the pandemic, putting an even greater strain on staff and resources.

Your compassionate gift and prayers today will give marginalised young women like Lucy a safe, secure and loving environment to care for their children and the chance to feel hopeful about their future. Thank you for your kind-hearted generosity.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv

Bishop of Parramatta

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

It is Christmas time once again!

We are reaching out for your generosity this festive season to share joy to our less privileged families.

Instead of groceries, may we have donation using our **QR code** hanging at the Christmas tree (at the foyer) or scan it here. Upon scanning and it will direct you to our Vinnies fundraising page.

Please note that the amount displayed on the screen is the total donation to date. Just click on **GIVE NOW** and select your donation amount (at the bottom is an option for any amount) then select **NEXT** to proceed for payment. Include your email address for the invoice to be sent automatically.



YOUTH MINISTRY

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

BLAZE

BLAZE youth group is held every second Friday throughout the school term in the St John XXIII school hall. Youth runs from 7:15 to 9pm and accommodate a fun and engaging night of faith-based talks encouraging teens to walk with Christ in a nurturing community. If you would like to come along to one of our sessions, please contact the team at <u>blaze@john23rd.org.au</u>

Youth Coordinator Amanda Lee - 0413 545 318 Assistant Youth Coordinator Caitlin Green - 0425 579 594 *Youth Leaders* Anna Todhunter Taylor Coutinho Johnathan Soosaipillai Natasha Surjanto Charlotte Todhunter

For all youth ministry enquiries, ⊠ *blaze@john23rd.org.au* or visit our FB page https://www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/ ♂



Come and Join !

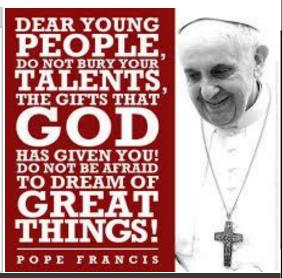
MORE YOUTH GROUPS

CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*) **CRL YOUTH LEADERS** Rojith de Silva - 0405 956 3210 Nimeshi Fernando -0417 101009 YFC (Youth for Christ) YFC YOU'TH LEADERS YFC International Vince Erasmo - 0406 253 698 YFC Australia Jonathan Montaos 0401 478 733

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Holy Cross Primary
49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood
Principal: Louise O'Donnell

(02) 8664 7100 *holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au*John XXIII & St Mark's College
160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens
Principal: Dr Peter Webster
(02) 9852 0500 *stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au*Catholic Early Learning Centre
160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens
(02) 9852 0500 *stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au*Catholic Early Learning Centre
160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens
(02) 9852 0585 *celestanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au nmw.celestanhope.catholic.edu.au*



If you or a family member is homebound and would want to receive communion in your home please contact the parish office.

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm **Office Contacts a** (02) 8883 5981 **()** 0423 160567 (*AH Emergency*) 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens, 2768 MAILING PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens, NSW 2768 **CLERGY** Parish Priest: Fr Jolly Chacko 🖂 jolly@john23rd.org.au **1** 0417 541 637 (for emergency only) Assistant Priest: Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic Zvonimir@john23rd.org.au STAFF Secretary: Tanya Gatt 🖂 secretary@john23rd.org.au Finance: Renuka Soosaipillai 🖂 accounts@john23rd.org.au Sacramental Coordinator: Helen Zammit Sacramental@john23rd.org.au **Operations Manager:** Daphney Fernandes operations@john23rd.org.au **OTHER CONTACTS** Maintenance issues: David Gorkic 🖂 maintenance@john23rd.org.au Columbarium queries: Daphney Fernandes 🖂 columbarium@john23rd.org.au

Communication queries: Techie Sarlabus *communications@john23rd.org.au*

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome to our parish community!

Please take a welcome envelope pack from the front entrance. Visit our website <u>http://john23rd.com/</u> Like our Facebook page <u>www.facebook.com/john23rdparish</u> View our livestreams via YouTube https://www.youtube.com/c/StJohn%20 XXIIIGlenwood-StanhopeGardensParish

SUGGESTION BOX

We welcome your comments and constructive suggestions.

If you would like to advertise your business please contact the parish office. St John XXIII Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.

